



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Monday, December 10, 2007

Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers Seize almost a Half Million in U.S. Currency during the month of November

Several traffic stops by Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Officers along with efforts by DPS Criminal Investigators resulted in the seizure of \$438,439 in drug money during the month of November, 2007. All of the money seized was U.S. Currency.

The largest amount of money seized by DPS during a single traffic stop during the month occurred on November 30 when a DPS Officer stopped a commercial car hauler on westbound Interstate 10 at milepost 151 in Phoenix. Inside one of the vehicles being transported on the commercial car hauler was a hidden compartment containing \$204,000. Officers discovered the hidden compartment in the vehicle, a Ford F150, while conducting a search. The cash and vehicle were seized. The driver of the car hauler was not arrested. The investigation is continuing.

“Unfortunately the state remains a major corridor for drug trafficking. This shows drug dealers will use any and every available means to get their drug cash to the distributors responsible for selling their product across the country. DPS Officers are trained to look for anything out of the ordinary when making a traffic stop,” said Roger Vanderpool, Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.

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